

Happy Green Holidays

Here are some ideas for giving meaningful gifts that go easy on the environment:

1. ***Entertainment Coupons and Tickets*** – Attending a concert, play, sporting event, movie, or other performance can create lasting memories. You can also consider buying a loved one a season pass for the Aquatics Center or a gift certificate for recreation classes and programs.
2. ***Homemade Food*** – Whether it's a cherished craft or hand crafted food, when someone receives a homemade gift, they know that you spent your valuable time creating something for them.
3. ***Food Items*** – Gifts like fruit baskets, cheese assortments, and alcohol are widely appreciated and are unlikely to go to waste. Consider a “wine of the month” subscription or similar arrangement that lasts all year.
4. ***Donations*** – With a world full of needy people and a society as comfortable as ours, why not send a donation to a trusted organization in honor of a friend or relative as a gift?
5. ***Magazine Subscriptions*** – Magazines can provide hours of entertainment, education, and just plain enjoyment all the year through. While magazines do consume resources to produce, your friends and family members can be trusted to recycle it when they're done.
6. ***Plants*** – How about a little greenery as a way of being green? Plants purify our air and just make our homes and workplaces nicer places to be. Naturally, you need to be careful when purchasing plants to ensure that the recipient has a good place for it.
7. ***Professional Personal Services*** – Do the folks on your gift list enjoy a massage? Do they regularly get manicures or pedicures? Buying a gift certificate for these services is a great way to ensure that your gift will be appreciated.
8. ***Time*** – Giving your own time to someone can be the greatest gift of all. Perhaps you can make a monthly lunch date, offer your babysitting services, or offer your assistance to someone as a gift this year.
9. ***Green Gifts*** – There are many items that help protect the environment that make great gifts. Compact fluorescent bulbs, canvas shopping bags, and transit coupons are just a few that immediately come to mind.
10. ***Don't Buy Anything*** – Another option is not to feel compelled to buy anything. If the holiday season is about sharing our joy and love with our family and friends, expressing these feelings through gifts seems somewhat secondary than just expressing your feelings directly either verbally or in a lovely note or card.